Claims

We claim:

1. A method for controlling a plant pathogen wherein said method comprises applying to said plant pathogen a pesticidally effective amount of a plant essential oil.

2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is from a plant selected from the group consisting of Palmarosa (*Cymbopogon martini*), tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*), marjoram (*Thymus masiichina*), oregano (Origanum vulgure), lemongrass (*Cymbopogon flexuosus*), *Eucalyptus citriodora* and thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*).

3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said plant is palmarosa.

4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said essential oil is palmarosa oil.

5. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said essential oil is geraniol.

6. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said plant is thyme.

7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein said essential oil is thymol.

8. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is used to control a plant pathogen selected from the group consisting of *Penicillium* sp., *Botrytis* sp., *Monilinia* sp., *Alternaria* sp., *Aspergillus* sp., *Rhizopus* sp., *Sphaerotheca* sp., *Erisyphe* sp., *Uncinula* sp., *Podosphaera* sp., *Phytopthora* sp., *Pythium* sp., *Peronospora* sp., *Ralstoria* sp., Hemibasidiomycetes, nematodes, *Venturia* sp., *Cercospora* sp., *Pseudocercosporella* sp., *Cercospora* sp., *Cercosporidium* sp., *Fusarium* sp., *Ophiostoma* sp. and other wood staining fungi, *Diplodia* sp., *Erwinia* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., and *Xanthomonas* sp.

9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said pathogen is *Ralstoria solenacearum*.

10. The method, according to claim 9, wherein said *Ralstoria solenacearum* is controlled using an agent selected from the group consisting of thyme essential oil, thymol, palmarosa oil and geraniol.

11. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici, Phytophthora capsici, Pythium aphanidermatum*, and *Athelia rolfsii*.

12. The method, according to claim 11, wherein said plant pathogen is controlled using an essential oil from a plant selected from the group consisting of wild marjoram, palmarosa, and thyme.

13. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is applied as a fumigant.

14. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the plant pathogen is a soil-borne pathogen.

15. The method, according to claim 1, wherein tomatoes are protected from said plant pathogen.

16. The method, according to claim 16, wherein said plant pathogen is *Ralstoria solenacearum*.

17. The method, according to claim 17, wherein tomatoes are protected against said *Ralstoria solenacearum* by an essential oil from palmarosa or thyme.

18. A container which contains an essential plant oil and which has associated with said container directions for using said essential plant oil to control one or more plant pathogens.

19. A composition for the control of a plant pathogen wherein said composition comprises an essential oil and an agricultural carrier formulated for fumigation.